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Subject: Weekly Compass: October 2, 2018



Weekly Update: 10/2/2018

Welcome to the Weekly Compass, your gateway to information about recent and upcoming ORD activities. If you have ideas for the Weekly Compass, please send them to the editors. To see past issues, visit the Weekly Compass archive on [ORD@work](#).

Weekly Note from Jennifer

ORDers-Thank you for joining me at last week's town hall meeting. It was wonderful to recognize some of our many successes as we finished up fiscal year 2017. Whether it's research in support of TSCA and PFAS; support for states, tribes and local communities grappling with wildfires, harmful algal blooms and water treatment, or superfund cleanups and smarter development decisions; emergency response support; or sharing educational material for things like EnviroAtlas with the next generation, we are making a difference.

In addition to this important work, we must also plan for our future success. That's why the ORD Strategic Plan for 2018-2022 is so important. Please take a look at the strategy to better understand the context for the range of initiatives that you've been hearing about including organizational restructuring, the Workforce Planning Strategy, EPA's Lean Management System, and others. Together, these initiatives will set us up for a successful, impactful future.

As of October 1, we are officially funded via a Continuing Resolution through December 7. In the meantime, the EPA FY2020 budget was submitted to OMB, and the OMB hearing was held on September 19th. There will be follow up briefings in the coming two months.

I know that what is on the top of many people's minds is the effort to move forward with plans to combine offices with similar functions in order to reduce redundancies in operations, streamline management oversight, and better align our structure with current resources. This restructuring plan was developed by ORD career leadership to ensure the continued development of strong science to support the Agency's mission. As was announced, the new ORD offices will be called the Office of Resource Management and Office of Science Integration and Policy. The first office combines ORD administrative support functions into a single office and the latter combines OSP and OSA. Both new offices will include relevant functions from NCER. Combining OSA and OSP will enhance our ability to coordinate science across the Agency while reinforcing our scientific integrity policy. As you all know, the Senate confirmed Assistant Administrator for ORD has customarily served as the EPA Science Advisor. As we do not have a Senate confirmed AA, I will continue to serve as the Agency's Science Advisor. ORD is retaining all of the functions of all of the offices being restructured, and there will be no reductions in FTE as a result of these changes. This restructuring will help ORD be more efficient and more responsive to Agency priorities, providing the science needed to protect human health and the environment.

In closing, I'd like to welcome David Dunlap to ORD as our new Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, replacing Richard Yamada. David brings more than 30 years of environmental engineering and policy experience to his new role. As a chemical engineer with both field and regulatory policy experience, David's knowledge will help him bridge the gap between science and policy. Please join me in welcoming him to ORD.

I'm wishing everyone a happy fiscal new year and looking forward to another year full of great work!- *Jennifer*

Quick Updates

- Check out the EPA response page for Hurricane Florence for the latest updates.
- EPA's Practical Methods to Analyze and Treat Emerging Contaminants (PFAS) in Solid Waste, Landfills, Wastewater/Leachates, Soils, and Groundwater to Protect Human Health and the Environment RFA (short title: PFAS in Landfills and Groundwater) is open for applications through **today**.
- Don't forget to check out the open opportunities on Talent Hub!
- You can read the This Week @ EPA newsletter [here](#).
- Upcoming webinars:
 - A-E Connections Call: Wednesday, October 3, 11:30-12:30 ET
 - EPA-Wide IRIS Meeting: Wednesday, October 3: 2-3 ET
 - ORD PFAS Webinar: Accessing Information for PFAS Using the US EPA CompTox Chemistry Dashboard: Wednesday, October 3, 2-3 ET
 - SERDP & ESTCP Webinar: Chlorinated Solvents Workshop Overview and Feature Projects: Thursday, October 4, 12-1:30 ET
 - Introduction to PDF Accessibility: Thursday, October 11, 1-3 ET
 - EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Water Reuse: Wednesday, October 17, 3-4 ET

In the Lab:

Updated Smoke Sense Mobile Application Now Live

EPA's updated Smoke Sense mobile application is now available for download in the App Store and Google Play. The application is a part of a research study led by Ana Rappold (NHEERL) to understand the extent to which smoke from wildfires impacts human health and productivity; discover how people protect their health during smoke exposure; and develop effective strategies to communicate risks from smoke exposure. Initially piloted in 2017, the application's update includes the time of last measurement of two air pollutants present during wildfires, maps of hourly forecasts of smoke and ozone across the continental U.S., a Smoke Smarts module to test users' knowledge of wildfire smoke exposure, updated graphics, streamlined tutorials, and more.

Health Care Professionals Can Help Reduce Public Health Burden during Poor Air Quality

An article, "Ambient Air Quality and Cardiovascular Health: Translation of Environmental Research for Public Health," by NHEERL Director Wayne Cascio and Assistant Lab Director Tom Long recently published in the *North Carolina Medical Journal*. The article presents information on the sources, exposure, and health effects of air pollution, especially for those with heart and blood vessel disease. It highlights EPA educational tools and resources, and offers an innovative clinical intervention strategy, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, that can help individuals and populations reduce exposure and risk, and thus decrease clinical outcomes for people with established heart disease.

Meeting with California Department of Toxic Substance and Control

NERL and NCCT staff met with California Department of Toxic Substance and Control (DTSC) staff to discuss California's use of EPA's Consumer Product Category Database (available through the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard) and the SHEDS-HT model. DTSC plans on using the SHEDS-HT results to support selection of Priority Product categories and further prioritization or evaluation of products and chemicals. These activities will directly support California's Safer Consumer Products program stated goal of identifying and prioritizing chemicals in consumer products with the potential to cause adverse impacts on public health and environment.

Evaluating Mortality Data in Relation to Particulate Matter Reductions Under the Clean Air Act

On Wednesday and Thursday, in Chapel Hill, NC, a consortium of trade organizations including the American Petroleum Institute, American Forest and Paper Association, American Wood Council, and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, with support from Exxon Mobil Corporation, is sponsoring a symposium. It is focused on the question: *Have reductions in particulate matter resulted in intended decreases in mortality?* Three research teams will respond to this question, using the same Medicare mortality dataset, and data on air pollutants and meteorological factors from 1999-2013. NHEERL's Ana Rappold was selected as a member of the both the Project and Proposal Review Committees, and will serve as Lead Discussant for the session titled, 'Causal Estimates of the Relationship Between Fine Particulate Matter and Mortality Using Attainment Status Under the Clean Air Act Amendments.'

Updating Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food

October 7-10, NCCT's Dr. Grace Patlewicz will be participating in a joint Food and Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization project to update the principles and methods of the Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food (EHC 240). The new guidelines are being developed in line with new advances in genotoxicity. Dr. Patlewicz will join other experts in lending their expertise towards crafting new guidance regarding chemicals present in food. More information about the current WHO guidelines is available [here](#).

Artificial Intelligence Used in Simulating Human Behaviors that Affect Exposure

The *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology* recently published "Simulating exposure-related behaviors using agent-based models embedded with needs-based artificial intelligence" by NERL's Namdi Brandon, Kathie Dionisio, Kristin Isaacs, Rogelio Tornero-Velez, Paul Price, NCEA's Dustin Kapraun, and NCCT's R. Woodrow Setzer. The authors created a model that simulates human behavior patterns. The model was implemented in an artificial intelligence program that allowed the authors to mimic human decisions for behaviors, such as sleeping, eating, commuting and working, that affect human exposures to chemicals and other stressors. The authors demonstrate that the program is capable of simulating behavior over extended periods of time and they propose that this framework, and models based on it, can generate human behavior data for use in exposure assessments.

BenchMark Dose Software 3.0 Release

On September 30th, the Benchmark Dose Software (BMDS) 3.0 was publicly released. BMDS 3.0 has a totally redesigned interface and new Bayesian models and a Bayesian model averaging feature for dichotomous models. The new interface has been designed to facilitate current EPA dose-response analysis practices and to perform and track analyses of multiple datasets and multiple modeling options.

PFAS Analytical Technical Support

At the request of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Region 5 and ORD have completed the first year of a study on the potential impacts of composting on groundwater. The contaminants of interest are PFAS, metals, semi-volatile organics, volatile organics, pesticides, herbicides, nutrients, and fecal indicators. NRMRL's Ron Herrmann and Laura Boczek have provided analytical and data verification support for this effort. Region 5 has granted the State of Minnesota's request for a second year of data analysis and NRMRL scientists will continue to support this effort.

Presentation at the Oklahoma Brownfields Conference, Oklahoma City, OK

Last week, NRMRL's Scott Huling presented , "*In Situ* Chemical Oxidation," which discussed a pilot-scale *in situ* chemical oxidation (ISCO) demonstration performed at the U.S. Marine Corp Recruit Depot in Parris Island, SC. Scott presented on ISCO design and deployment guidelines, as well as treatment performance results. The results of this study will help remedial project managers at sites where ISCO will be deployed, including CERCLA, RCRA, and underground storage tank sites where EPA has regulatory responsibilities. The Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2018, sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, brings together a diverse group to hear from industry leaders about how brownfield sites shape the social, economic, and environmental fabric of a community.

Site Visit for Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management Research, Fort Riley, KS

October 5-12, NRMRL's Steve Acree, Doug Beak, Randall Ross, Alexis Chau, Russell Neill, and Justin Groves will visit Fort Riley, KS, to install temporary monitoring wells for the collection of groundwater samples. The temporary monitoring wells will supplement the existing network and improve the understanding of upgradient water quality and groundwater chemistry. In addition, a resistivity geophysical survey will be performed on select transects. The monitoring system is associated with a permeable parking lot and stormwater recharge galley, which are part of a green infrastructure/stormwater management project at the elementary school on post.

Nitrification of Hydroxylamine in Soil

NRMRL's Kristie Rue, Scott Huling, and co-authors published a paper, "Abiotic hydroxylamine nitrification involving manganese- and iron-bearing minerals," in *Science of the Total Environment*. The paper discusses the abiotic and biotic transformation process of hydroxylamine in soil systems, a process that produces the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide.

Removal of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon from Soil

NRMRL's Scott Huling and co-authors published the paper, "The combined effects of surfactant solubilization and chemical oxidation on the removal of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon from soil," in *Science of the Total Environment*. This work examines the effectiveness of a method for the remediation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from contaminated soils using a combination of surfactant-aided soil washing and chemical oxidation.

Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

Last week, NERL's Jay Garland spoke at the meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. Garland gave a presentation on Geospatial Distribution of Antibiotic-Resistant Genes in U.S. Rivers and Streams. The advisory council is led by HHS and it provides advice, information, and recommendations to U.S. Secretary of Health to support and evaluate the implementation of U.S. government activities related to combating antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Fentanyl Decontamination Research Presented at IEHA Conference

Last week in Evansville, IN, NHSRC's Lukas Oudejans presented in a round table discussion on fentanyl cleanup as part of the Indiana Environmental Health Association Fall Conference. Dr. Oudejans discussed EPA's technical support role and his preliminary fentanyl decontamination results as part of a set of presentations by Marion County Public Health Department, Indiana State Department of Health, Crisis Cleaning Inc., and EPA Region 5 OSC. Illicit fentanyl activities that result in contamination of building materials are increasing. Remediation operations will benefit from improved knowledge on in situ neutralization options of fentanyl on building materials. The results of this research will inform the EPA response community as well as other federal, state, tribal and local agencies on the means to decontaminate, and clear for re-occupancy indoor environments contaminated with fentanyl.

Grantee Publication on Measuring Sediment Transport in Rivers

A research team, part of the Center for Comprehensive, OptimaL, and Effective Abatement of Nutrients (CLEAN), published a paper focusing on the development of new bedload equations for measuring sediment transport in rivers. Current sediment transport formulas tend to be complicated and are sometimes difficult to apply to stream networks. The bedload and sediment transport equations that the team developed were simplified in that they use sediment grain size to estimate stream power, a parameter generally required in sediment load transport modeling.

Furthermore, the new formulas do not require flow depth. It was found that the new equations performed well compared to more complex sediment load equations. The new equations should help to simplify the process of modeling sediment flux at the catchment or stream network scale, providing an additional tool to understand and manage sediment transport in watersheds.

Grantee Publication on SOAS Study

Differences and similarities of organic aerosol concentration and composition at two forested sites show the role of anthropogenic NO_x in biogenic secondary organic aerosol (bSOA) formation. The 2013 Southern Oxidant and Aerosol Study (SOAS) was a collaborative, multi-agency project involving some 60 atmospheric scientists, including many funded by Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grants. A major goal was to understand how emissions affect the formation of bSOA, an important component of particulate matter (PM). In a recent study, STAR grantees Lynn Russell, Sally Ng, and their teams investigated processes that affect bSOA formation using measurements at forests sites in Tennessee and Alabama. Enhancement in oxides of nitrogen (NO_x, or NO and NO₂), which predominantly come from vehicle emissions, was correlated with higher bSOA concentrations in AL for NO_x level above 1 parts per billion (ppb) but not in TN (where NO_x was usually below 1 ppb).

Cooperative Agreement with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

EPA's new five-year cooperative agreement with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) will be available for host offices. Contact Jayne Michaud (Michaud.jayne@Epa.gov) for more information. EPA host offices provide the funding for these Fellows. These are one-year placements with the option to be extended for an additional year.

WEFTEC 2018

This week, several ORD scientists will be giving presentations and attending the Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC), in New Orleans, LA. WEFTEC brings together water quality professionals from around the world, including industry, academia, and government to provide water quality education and training. This event is the largest annual water quality event in the world and offers water quality professionals education and training, access to cutting edge technologies, and promotes peer to peer networking among registrants.

The End of Era: ORD's Presence in Las Vegas

Last week marked a significant moment for NERL, ORD and EPA - as of September 30, 2018, ORD officially ended its research operations in Las Vegas, NV. The ORD staff stationed in Las Vegas made many significant contributions over the years. These contributions include research, development, and technology transfer programs to improve our understanding of environmental exposures to ecological and human receptors in support of EPA's mission, as well as, direct support in response to some of our nation's most significant environmental disasters. Our scientists in Las Vegas developed and applied a variety of field, laboratory, geospatial, and computational tools to monitor and characterize impacts on land and ecosystems and to address important topics such as vapor intrusion, hydraulic fracturing, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, tire crumb exposure, and harmful algae blooms.

We would also like to acknowledge the impact that the decision to end ORD operations in Las Vegas has had on our staff. They worked through the extremely difficult personal and professional decisions with great professionalism. For our staff who have relocated from Las Vegas, we welcome them to their new homes and look forward to continuing to work with them to support and advance the Agency's mission. To staff who are leaving (or have left) the Agency,

we thank you for your contributions to ORD, and for your service to our country. Below is a timeline of some of the key milestones for ORD's presence in Las Vegas.

Timeline of ORD in Las Vegas

- 1954: EPA-Las Vegas started off as a field station of the US Public Health Service (PHS) with the goal to monitor and evaluate radioactivity for the US Atomic Energy Commission.
- 1966: The Southwestern Radiological Health Facility (SWRHL) consolidated the operation of 219 people in five buildings on the university campus.
- 1970: The SWRHL is transferred from the PHS to the newly founded Environmental Protection Agency. Responsibilities included management of PHS' national radiological health programs.
- 1971: The SWRHL became an element of the Office of Research and Development and renamed the Western Environmental Research Laboratory (WERL).
- 1971: WERL initiated a remote sensing program with 5 aircraft and using three Huey helicopters and a mobile lab, began the National Lake Eutrophication Study.
- 1972: WERL became the National Environmental Research Center Las Vegas (NERC-LV).
- 1979: Laboratory name changed to Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory (EMSL-LV).
- 1979: EMSL-LV staff performed radiation monitoring and clean-up at Three Mile Island.
- 1980: EMSL-LV staff performed environmental forensics on the chemical waste associated with Love Canal contamination.
- 1989: EMSL-LV staff assisted with the bio-remediation and beach clean-up of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- 1995: EMSL-LV became the Characterization Research Division of the newly formed National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL).
- 2000: Characterization Research Division became the Environmental Sciences Division (ESD) in NERL.
- 2010: ESD staff analyzed dispersant agents and mapped oil plume associated with Deep Water Horizon spill.
- 2015: With NERL's reorganization, research staff in Las Vegas are re-assigned to the Exposure Methods and Measurements Division and the Systems Exposure Division.

2019 President's Challenge Launched by ASTHO

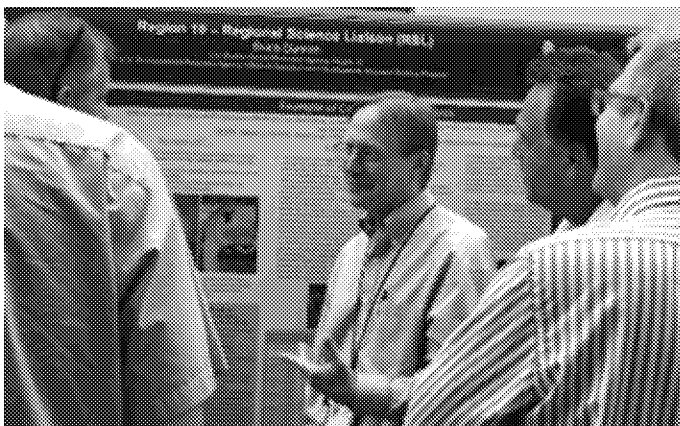
The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) officially launched the 2019 President's Challenge: Building Healthy and Resilient Communities. The announcement was made by President-Elect Nicole Alexander-Scott (RI), along with partners at NACCHO and the U.S. Surgeon General, at the ASTHO Annual Meeting. ORD will be working with ASTHO's Environmental Health team to partner on this multi-year President's challenge and other environmental health priorities.

Hurricane Florence

OSP's Felicia Barnett was deployed to North Carolina to assist Region 4 staff with the Hurricane Florence recovery effort. Felicia will be assisting with Superfund site inspections in hurricane-affected areas to assess possible damages that could lead to hazardous releases or exposures.

Regional Science Liaisons Meeting

The Regional Science Liaisons (RSLs) and ORD staff recently held a poster session in RTP. The RSLs presented posters alongside ORD PIs that featured examples of collaborative research projects between ORD and the Regions, provided examples of other ongoing research projects, and outlined the current research priorities in each region. The posters are available to view online [here](#).



Bruce Duncan (Region 10 RSL) presenting at the RSL and ORD Poster Session

In the Office:

2018 PARS Close-out and 2019 PARS Plans

ORD Transmittal 18-A-OARS-00126, FY18 & FY19 PARS Action & Due Dates, was issued on September 25 with instructions for closing out FY 2018 PARS agreements and establishing FY 2019 PARS plans. All FY 2018 PARS discussions and establishing all FY 2019 PARS plans must be completed by Friday, November 2. All performance ratings must be sent and signed on original FY 2018 PARS plans to the organization's OARS HR analyst by Friday, November 16. November 16 is also the deadline for each L/C/O to send one certification email for their organization to George Hammer. Please see the transmittal for more detailed information.

Employee Express Offline Oct. 5-8

Due to system upgrades, Employee Express will be offline starting Oct. 5 at 12:05 a.m. (EDT) and is estimated to be completed no later than Oct. 8 at 12 a.m. (EDT). Over the next few months, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will be implementing a series of major electrical power system improvements at its primary data center in Macon, Georgia. Due to the high voltage involved and the cross connection of core components, these maintenance activities require a full shutdown of all applications and services for the duration of the system upgrades. Your patience is appreciated as OPM takes steps to improve the OPM electrical power system. If you have question, please send to HRPayHelp@epa.gov. In the subject line, write: Employee Express question.

There's Still Time to be a Hall of Famer!

The Feds Feed Families Hall of Fame provides special recognition to those who donate at certain levels. There are just a few weeks left of this year's campaign, so you still have time to donate enough to join the hall of fame! You can participate in the hall of fame challenge as an individual or as a group. Groups may include as many as five people. Participants can earn recognition at one of three levels depending on the amount of food donated. For example, a group of EPA employees attended a farm gleaning event that produced 6,000 pounds of produce. Individually, each employee was attributed with 350 pounds, which automatically makes them silver level hall of famers. Learn more about the Hall of Fame, find your office's FFF coordinator, and learn about all the ways you can donate on the Feds Feed Families intranet site.

Agency-wide Launch of FedTalent

FedTalent, the agency's new learning management system that will replace SkillPort, launched on October 1. Like SkillPort, FedTalent will eventually serve as a "one stop shop" to host and

track all in-house and external training opportunities that will be available to employees. Agency employees should have received an email with login instructions on or about September 28, 2018 directing them to the OneEPA intranet homepage. FedTalent will have user and supervisor eLearning training courses on how to use the system. FED Talent is hosted and maintained by the Department of Interior's Interior Business Center (DOI/IBC). System questions and requests for support should be directed to the DOI/IBC help desk at 1-888-367-1622.

Launch of the 2018-2019 EPA Leaders and Learners Mentoring Program (LLMP)

The LLMP allows the partnerships to establish their own level of formality that best meets their professional needs and time commitments. Additionally, the flexibility and different avenues of training enable the partnerships to attend as it best fits *their* schedules. This is a voluntary program. Each office participating has a limited number of slots to fill, and they will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. This round, we are seeking to have at least 15 mentees and 15 mentors participate in the program. All mentee applicants to the program must have their supervisor's approval to participate. You will begin the 9-month formal program with a comprehensive matching process followed by formal training. From there, a minimum of two hours per month is devoted to the mentoring relationship.

Getting signed up is easy: Inform ORD's LLMP Program Coordinator, Sherie Brown, that you are interested in participating as either a mentee or a mentor. Sherie will track the level of interest in participating. Next, copy and paste this link into your web browser to sign up before October 5th, and complete a short questionnaire expressing why you are interested in being a mentee or mentor. The last question will ask for a biographical sketch/profile. Click "I'm done" to obtain your supervisor's endorsement and learn about next steps. If you have trouble accessing the website from the link above: Go to www.mentoringconnection.com, and click on the Not A Member Yet? button and enter the Group ID: LLMP. If you have any questions, please contact Sherie Brown at Brown.Sherie@epa.gov or 919-541-5476.

Leadership and Organizational Development Opportunities

There are two new "no cost" opportunities in the areas of leadership and organizational development. EPA's eLearning site has recently launched its LEAN Six Sigma homepage. Also, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is launching a cross-federal seminar series focused on leadership and professional development. ORD Senior Management is promoting these two relevant programs in an effort to promote a culture of leadership which thrives on continual improvement. Feel free to contact Sherie Brown (brown.sherie@epa.gov or 919-541-5476) with any additional questions.

- Federal Leadership and Professional Development Seminar Series- Access seminar resources and receive invitations by joining the seminar series listserv. To join, send a blank email from your government email address to: FedLeadershipSeminar-subscribe-request@listserv.gsa.gov.
- LEAN Six Sigma- Increase efficiency and productivity by making processes faster and smarter. LEAN Six Sigma principles continue to make a difference at EPA. You can find a healthy offering of LEAN Six Sigma training programs, including both Green and Black Belt level certifications on the EPA eLearning portal. Resources are available in your eLearning portal and currently highlighted on the homepage at <https://epa.skillport.com/skillportfe/main.action#whatshappening>

Accolades:

OAR Sent a Thank You Note for Participation in Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC) Meeting

Bill Wehrum, AA for OAR, sent a note thanking staff for their excellent contributions to the recent CAAAC meeting. ORD's Gail Robarge got a shout out for her part in the meeting covering the sensors discussion. The meeting covered a lot of ground – from updates on key Agency priorities to overviews of some of our latest information tools, to an in-depth discussion on fast-moving sensor issues.

In the Community:

EPA-RTP STEM Outreach Program

- In FY 2018, over 230 EPA-RTP employees participated in STEM Outreach events. On September 25, the program began laying the groundwork to match or surpass that success in FY 2019 by hosting its annual STEM Education Training for EPA-RTP employees.
- Yesterday, the program will participate in a meeting of STEM in the Park's Local STEM Partner Coalition to discuss STEM outreach in the Research Triangle area.
- Today, the program will host approximately 20 educators from Durham and Wake County, North Carolina Public Schools for an Educator Immersion Day with the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster (RTCC). The day will focus on EPA research, demonstrations and hands-on activities that have a connection to clean technologies.
- On Wednesday, EPA will conduct its second EPA Environmental Club meeting for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders at E.K. Powe Elementary School in Durham. Also on October 3, the program will participate in a coaching session for the Leader Triangle's Transforming Leaders fall semester, and the program will lead activities related to the Village Green Project's Air Quality Monitor at the South Regional Library in Durham.

Community Outreach in RTP

On September 19th, NCEA's Erin Hines, assisted by Emmi Felker-Quinn and Erin Yost, led an activity in DNA extraction from strawberries for an afterschool program at Easley Elementary School in Durham, North Carolina.

Photos of the Week: Visit to Oregon

Last week, Chris Robbins and Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta visited ORD's Western Ecology Division facilities in Corvallis and Newport, OR. While there, they viewed the facility renovations and meet with researchers, managers, and staff from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Tillamook Estuary Partnership.



Jennifer and Chris pose with the Royal Throne porta potties

IOAA's Megan Christian traveled with Jennifer and Chris, see her photos below of a gorgeous sunrise in Newport, Oregon.

